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REMOVAL OF SMALLPOX PATIENT.

COURT DECIDES THAT HEALTH OFFICER CAN NOT BE COMPELLED TO ACT WHEN NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

A resident of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., had in his home an employee who was suffering from smallpox. He requested the city health officer to remove the employee, but instead of complying the health officer quarantined the house. The resident ascertained that a city ordinance made it the duty of the health officer to remove to a hospital or some other safe and proper place all persons "sick with any infectious or pestilential disease," and he asked the court to compel the health officer to act in accordance with the requirements of the ordinance.

The evidence showed that no hospital had been erected and that no funds were available for the care of the patient. The court decided that the health officer could not be compelled to remove the patient.

The opinion of the Supreme Court of South Dakota in affirming the judgment appears in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 649.

SALE AND USE OF COCAINE AND NARCOTICS.

By MARTIN I. WILBERT, Technical Assistant, Division of Pharmacology, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

The enactment and accompanying enforcement of the Federal antinarcotic law bids fair to inaugurate a new era in antinarcotic-drug regulation in this country. The Federal law is primarily a revenue measure, designed to provide a record of the sale and distribution of the drugs included in its provisions, and was not, originally at least, designed to be, nor can it in its present form effectively serve as, a regulatory measure.

The far-reaching possibilities of this law have been thoroughly well recognized, however, and it has frequently been referred to as the